

ALL ACROSS THE USA:

Population Distribution, 1999

How many people live in the United States and where do they live? The answers to these questions are constantly changing.

In years ending in zero, population censuses provide detailed information about the number of people in

the United States and where they live. In the interim, people are born and die; some move away and others take their place. For the years in between censuses, people who need more recent numbers rely on intercensal population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Among other things, the estimates are used to allocate federal funds and monitor recent population changes.

Words That Count

- **Population estimates**, as produced by the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program, are approximations of populations for past dates. The calculations begin with the last census numbers and then are updated using data on births, deaths, and migration. Estimates of external and internal population movement are developed from tax returns, Medicare enrollment, and immigration data. The population estimates in this report are based on the 1990 census. The numbers in this report cover the 50 states and the District of Columbia, but do not include any of the U.S. outlying areas, such as Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- **Resident population** includes all people living in the United States.
- **Civilian noninstitutional population** is the basic universe for the Census Bureau surveys used in this report, the Current Population Survey (CPS),¹ the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), and the American Housing Survey (AHS). It includes everyone who is not in an institution and is not in the military.
- **The four statistical regions of the United States** are groups of states for which data are presented. They include the Northeast, the Midwest, the South, and the West. See map on page 13.
- **Metropolitan areas (MA)** are defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by agencies in the production, analysis, and publication of data. Each MA must contain either a place with a minimum population of 50,000 or a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area and a total population of at least 100,000. An MA is comprised of one or more counties with close economic and social relationships or a specified level of commuting interaction. In New England, MAs are composed of cities and towns rather than whole counties and must have a population of at least 75,000.
- **Central cities** include the largest places in metropolitan areas and places that are locally important as shown by both population size and levels of employment.
- **Suburban areas** are not defined by the Census Bureau. However, the term is used in this report to refer to the territory in metropolitan areas that is outside central cities.
- **Nonmetropolitan areas** are all areas outside of metropolitan areas.
- **Median age** is the age at which half the population is older and half is younger.

¹ Estimates are based on the 1990 census as enumerated, while CPS numbers are based on the census adjusted for undercount. Find source and accuracy information in Appendix B.

The total number of residents living in the United States is estimated every month. However, the most detailed estimates are produced annually with a reference date of July 1. These estimates include information on age, sex, and race and Hispanic origin.² Beginning with the July 1999 estimates, numbers became available for the population by nativity status.³ Regional, state, metropolitan area, county, and subcounty (city and town) estimates are also produced for each year, with varying degrees of demographic detail.

The nearly 24 million people added to the United States between 1990 and 1999 is greater than the 1999 population of Texas and Oklahoma combined.

Whether the focus is national or local, population growth and decline are driven by the components of change, births minus deaths and immigrants minus outmigrants.⁴ Between April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1999,

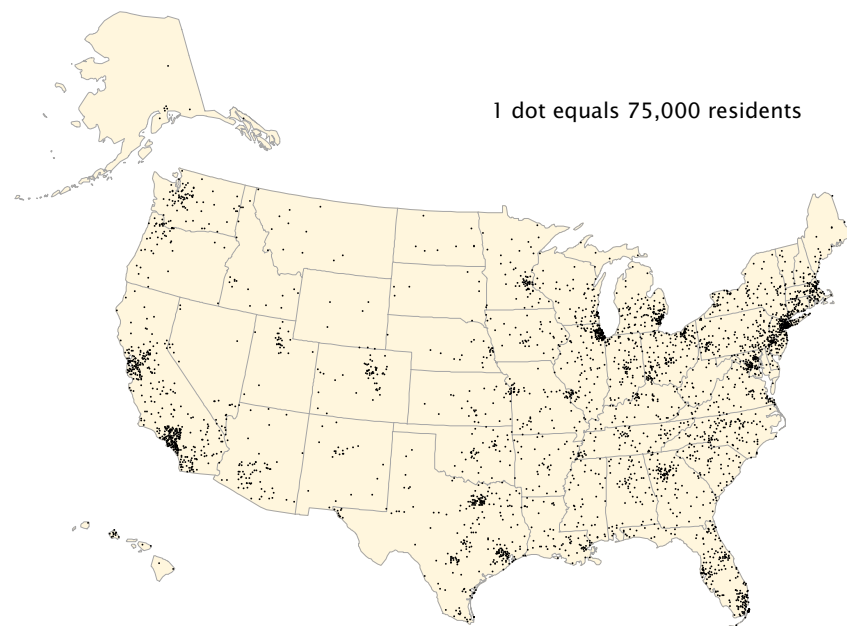
² See Chapter 16 for detailed definitions of race and Hispanic origin.

³ See Chapter 17 for a detailed definition of nativity.

⁴ See Chapter 3 for a discussion on migration and Chapter 4 for a discussion on childbearing.

Figure 2-1.

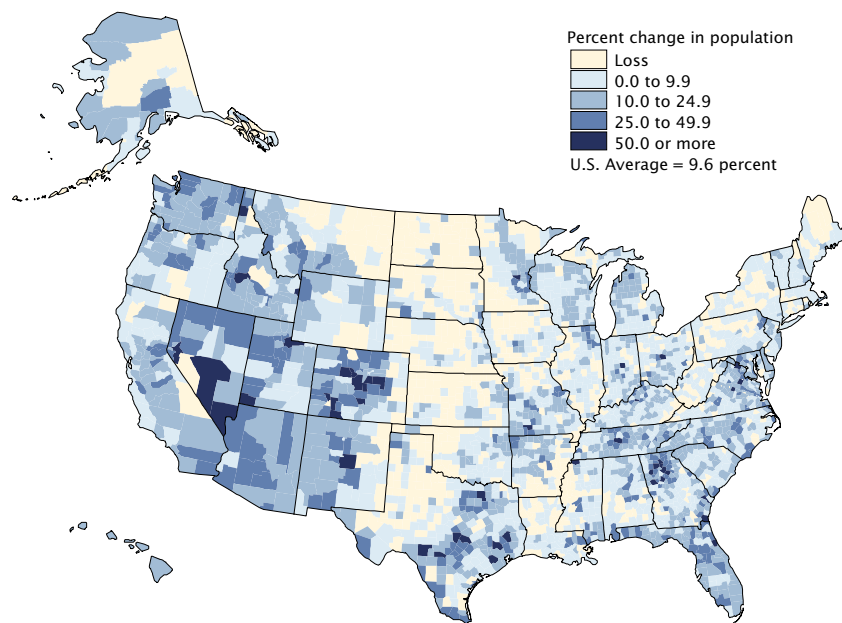
Distribution of the Resident Population in the United States: 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 1999 estimates.

there were 37 million births and 21 million deaths in the United States as reported by the Census Bureau's Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates (FSCPE) and the National Center for Health Statistics. This natural increase, as it is called, added 16 million people to the resident population. The remainder of the increase came from a positive international migration flow that added 7.5 million more people to the population.

Figure 2-2.
Change in Resident Population by County: 1990-99



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 1, 1990 census and July 1, 1999 estimates.

As of July 1, 1999, the resident population of the United States was 273 million, a 10 percent increase over the April 1, 1990 census count. However, not all segments of the population grew at the same rate. Rapid growth in the Asian and Pacific Islander and Hispanic populations was fueled by migration from abroad. However, the Black and American Indian and Alaska Native populations also experienced rapid population growth.⁵ The growth rate for Whites who were not of Hispanic origin was only 4 percent,

⁵ Hispanics may be of any race. Based on the July 1, 1999 estimates, 5 percent of the Black population, 16 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native population, and 6 percent of the Asian and Pacific Islander population are also of Hispanic origin.

population, 31 million, was almost as large as the Black population in the United States.

In July 1999, the Black population numbered 35 million, a 14 percent increase over the April 1990 census count. Over the 9-year period, Blacks grew from 12.3 percent of the total population to 12.8 percent.

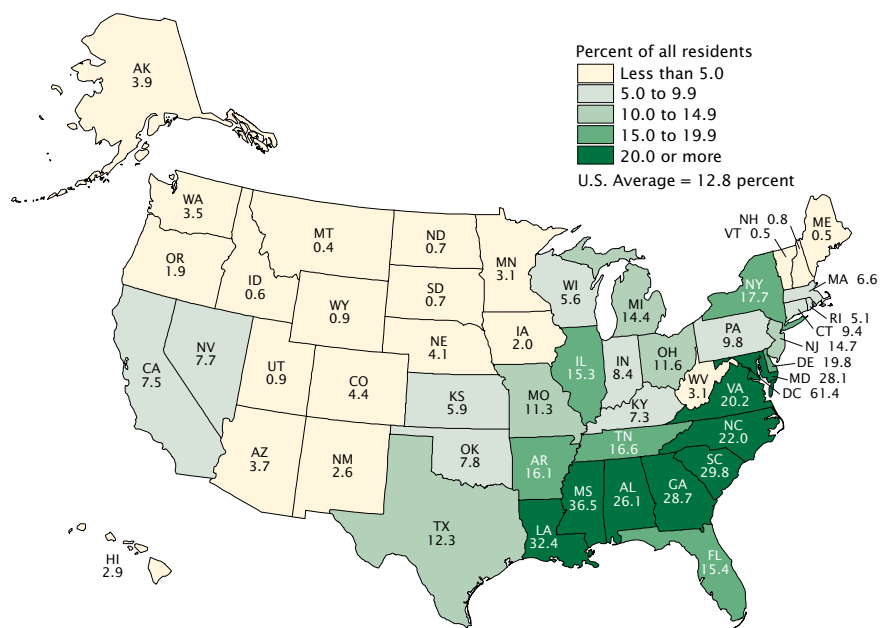
Although American Indians and Alaska Natives were a small group, they also outpaced the national growth rate. With a 16 percent gain since 1990, their population grew to about 2 million and accounted for about 1 percent of all U.S. residents in 1999.

bringing their total up to about 196 million. Because other groups were growing faster, the White non-Hispanic share of the total population dropped from 76 percent to 72 percent.

With a growth rate of 45 percent, the Asian and Pacific Islander population was the fastest growing racial or ethnic group during the decade. However, this group was small, accounting for 4 percent of the total population and numbering about 11 million residents in 1999.

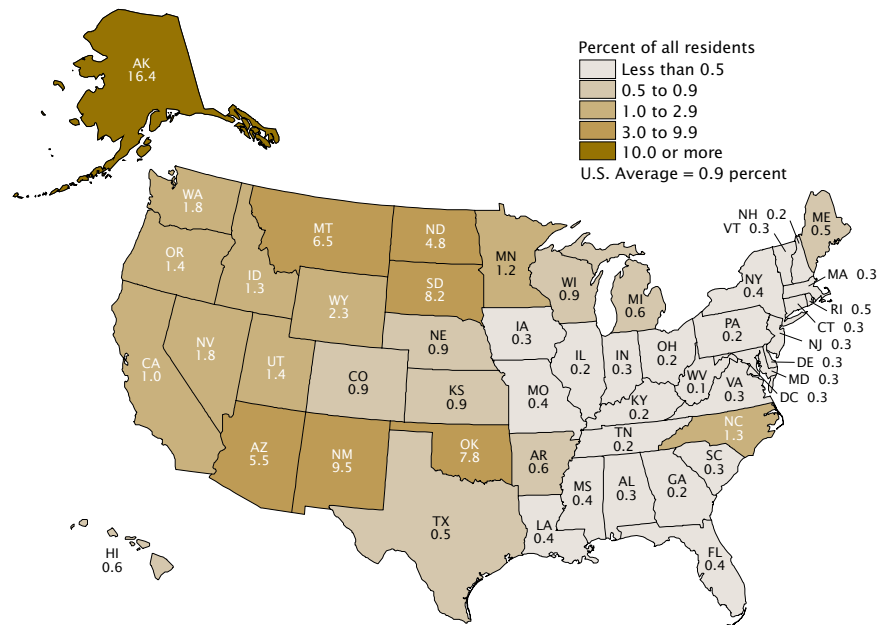
Hispanic residents, who can be of any race, were the second fastest growing racial or ethnic group in the United States in the 1990s. Over the decade, this group increased 40 percent and their share of the population rose from 9.0 percent to 11.5 percent. Their total

Figure 2-3a.
Distribution of the Black Population by State: 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 1999 estimates.

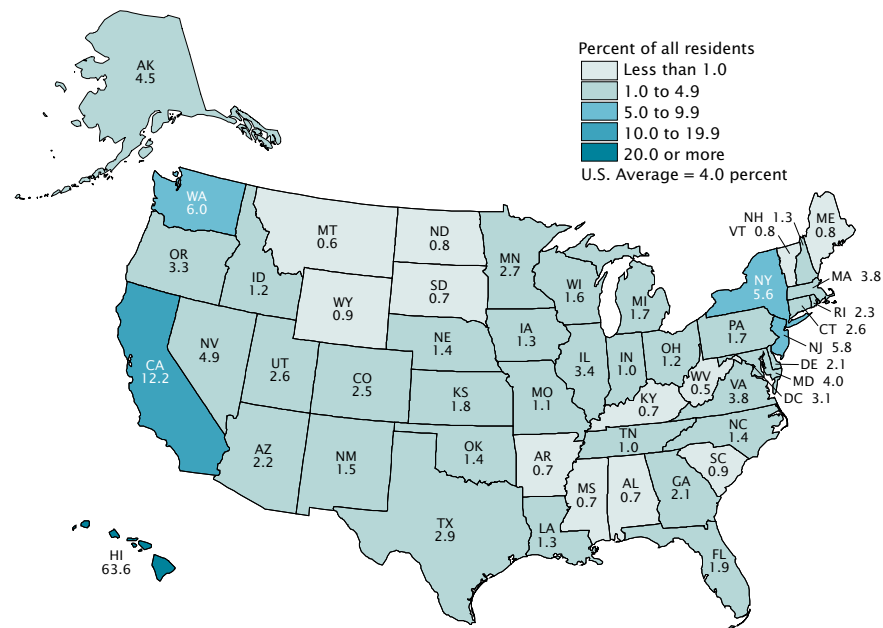
Figure 2-3b.
Distribution of the American Indian and Alaska Native Population by State: 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 1999 estimates.

Figure 2-3c.

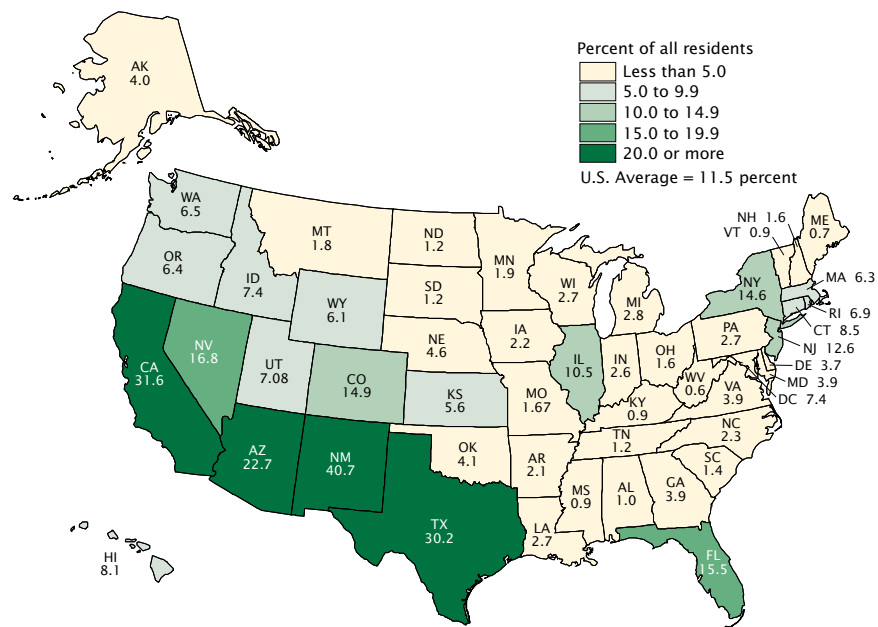
Distribution of the Asian and Pacific Islander Population by State: 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 1999 estimates.

Figure 2-3d.

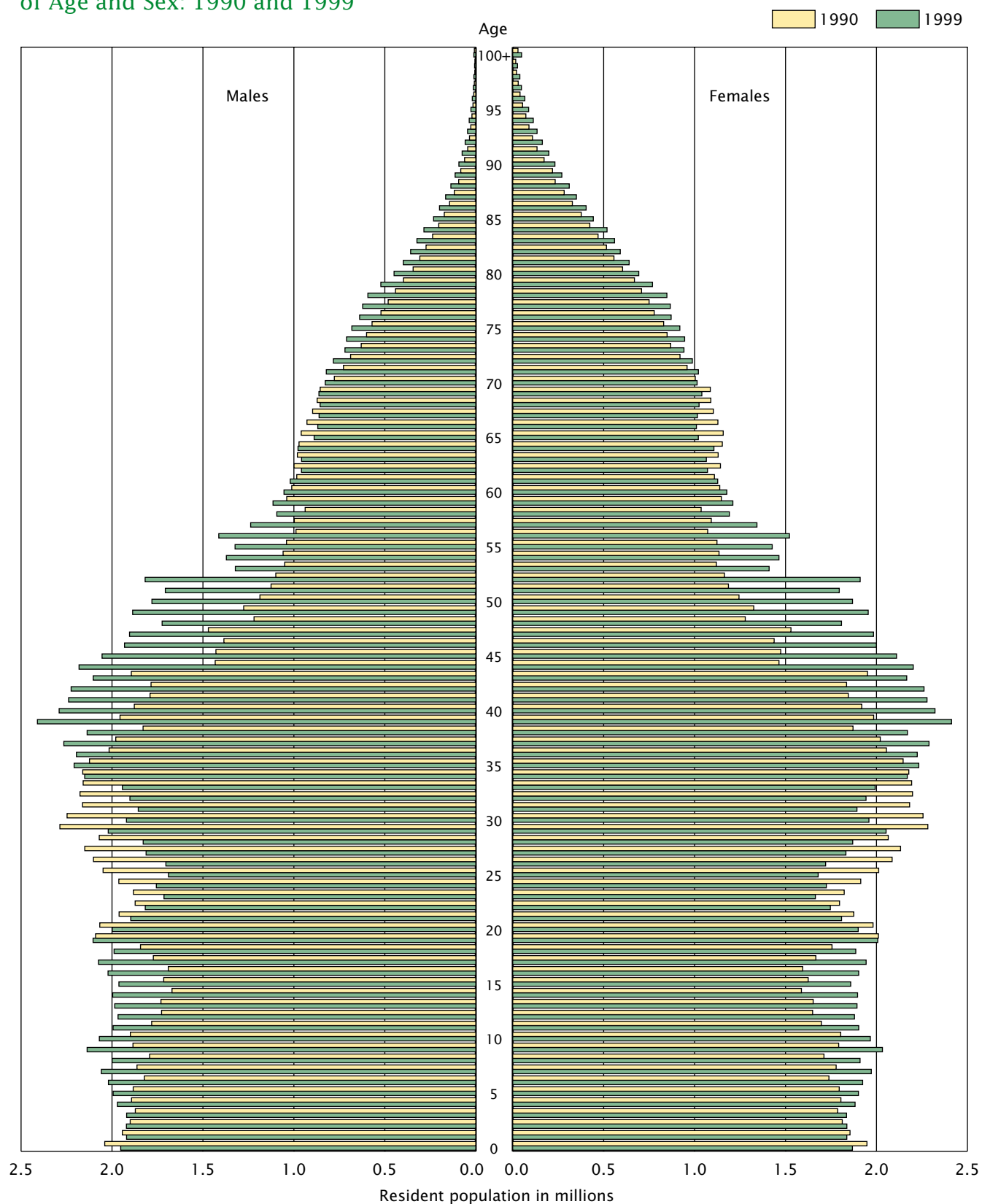
Distribution of the Hispanic Population by State: 1999



Note: Hispanics may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 1999 estimates.

Figure 2-4.
The Resident Population of the United States by Single Year
of Age and Sex: 1990 and 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 1, 1990 census and July 1, 1999 estimates.

The United States population is growing older.

In July 1999, half of all people living in the United States were aged 36 or older, almost 3 years older than median age in April 1990. The aging of the baby boom generation, a large group of people who were born between 1946 and 1964, is partially responsible for this increase. As they moved into their middle years, the population aged 45 to 49 grew 41 percent and the group aged 50 to 54 swelled 45 percent. However, the oldest age category also experienced substantial gain during this period. Between April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1999, the population aged 85 and older passed 4 million, a 38-percent gain over the 9-year period.

Age differences were evident by race and ethnicity. The two youngest groups were the Hispanic population and American Indian and Alaska Native population. About half of the people in both these groups were aged 27 or younger. The median age was 30 for the Black population and 32 for the Asian and Pacific Islander population. The White non-Hispanic population was the oldest population group in 1999. The median age for this group was 38 — more than 10 years higher than that of the youngest group.

During the last decade, geographic differences in population growth were also clear.

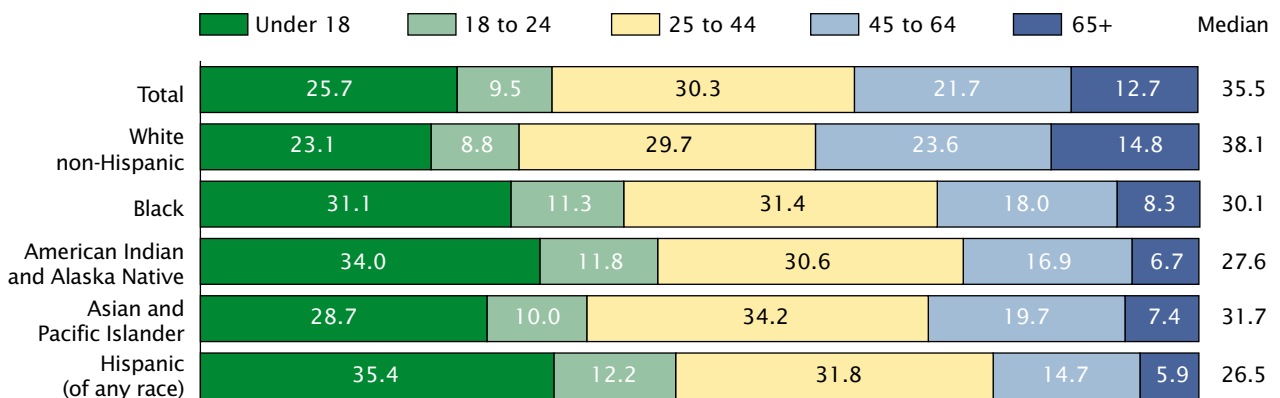
Just like the country as a whole, regional and local growth depends on births, deaths, and migration flows. In the Northeast, South, Midwest, and West, natural increase (births minus deaths) produced growth. International migrants also added population to every region of the country. However, domestic migration, the movement of people from one state to another favored the South and West over the Northeast and Midwest.

While the Southern and Western regions of the United States have experienced above average growth rates, the Midwestern and Northeastern regions have lagged behind. Between 1990 and 1999, the Southern population grew 13 percent and the Western population swelled 16 percent. Over that same time period, the Midwest saw an increase of just 6 percent and the gain in the Northeast was only 2 percent.

In 1999, the South was the most populous region of the country, accounting for 96 million residents. Sixty-three million people lived in the Midwest and 61 million people lived in the West. The Northeast, with 52 million residents, had the smallest share of the U.S. population.

Figure 2-5.
**Broad Age Groups for the Population
by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1999**

(Percent distribution)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 1999, estimates.

Table 2-A.

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin: 1990 and 1999

| Race and Hispanic origin | Total population (in millions) | | Population change 1990-99 | | Percent of all residents | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | 1999 | 1990 | In millions | In percent | 1999 | 1990 |
| Total population | 272.7 | 249.5 | 23.2 | 9.3 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| White | 224.6 | 208.7 | 15.9 | 7.6 | 82.4 | 83.9 |
| Non-Hispanic | 196.0 | 188.6 | 7.4 | 4.1 | 71.9 | 75.6 |
| Black..... | 34.9 | 30.6 | 4.3 | 14.2 | 12.8 | 12.3 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native..... | 2.4 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 16.0 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Asian and Pacific Islander..... | 10.8 | 3.0 | 7.8 | 44.9 | 4.0 | 3.0 |
| Hispanic (of any race)..... | 31.3 | 22.6 | 8.7 | 40.0 | 11.5 | 9.0 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 1, 1990, census and July 1, 1999, estimates.

California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois were the five most populous states in 1999. In recent decades, rapid population gains, fueled primarily by migration, have moved California, Texas, and Florida to the top of the ranking. Slower gains in New York and Illinois have been sufficient to keep these states on the most populated list. In 1960, the five most populous states were New York, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Ohio.

SPOTLIGHT ON METROPOLITAN AND NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS

The population in both metropolitan areas and nonmetropolitan areas increased between 1990 and 1999.

The population of the country's 276 metropolitan areas (MAs) grew by 10 percent between April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1999. Over the same period, nonmetropolitan areas, which make up the remainder of the country, grew at a slower rate (7 percent). The 219 million people living in metropolitan areas in 1999 accounted for 80 percent of all people living in the United States.

Substantial differences in growth for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas were evident by region. In general, the most rapidly growing metropolitan areas were in the South and West. Between 1990 and 1999, they constituted 81 percent of the population increase in metropolitan areas and 78 percent of the growth in nonmetropolitan areas. The Midwest accounted for 14 percent of metropolitan growth and 18 percent of nonmetropolitan growth. In the Northeast, both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas grew by about 4 percent.

Table 2-B.

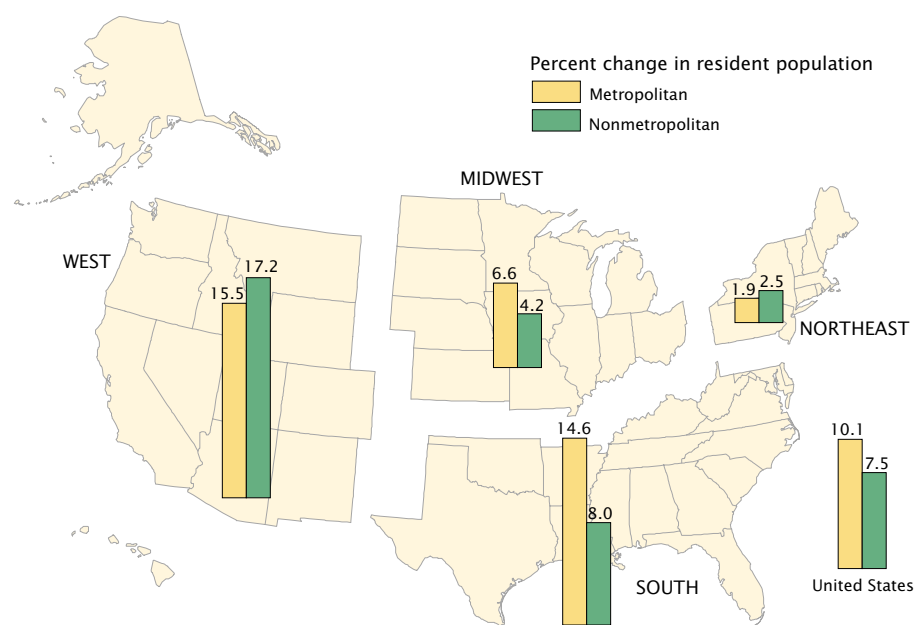
Population of the United States by Region and Metropolitan Status: 1999

| Region | Total population (in millions) | Percent metropolitan | Percent in central cities | Percent in suburban areas | Percent nonmetropolitan |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total population..... | 272.7 | 80.2 | 30.2 | 50.0 | 19.8 |
| Northeast..... | 51.8 | 89.4 | 30.6 | 58.8 | 10.6 |
| Midwest..... | 63.2 | 73.7 | 27.3 | 46.3 | 26.3 |
| South..... | 96.5 | 75.3 | 28.0 | 47.2 | 24.7 |
| West..... | 61.2 | 86.8 | 36.1 | 50.7 | 13.2 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 1999, estimates.

Figure 2-6.

Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Population Change by Region: 1990-99



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 1, 1990 census and July 1, 1999 estimates.

All ten of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas between 1990 and 1999 were in the West or South.

The Las Vegas, Nevada-Arizona, metropolitan area had the greatest percent increase (62 percent). Two metropolitan areas in Texas followed it: Laredo (45 percent) and McAllen-Edinburg-Mission (39 percent).

In 1999, the eight metropolitan areas in the United States with 1990 populations of 5 million or more accounted for 28 percent of this country's total population. All eight grew between 1990 and 1999. Within this group, two California areas grew the fastest, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County and San Francisco-

Oakland-San Jose, with growth rates of 10 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

However, the 12 metropolitan areas with 1990 populations of more than 2 million, but less than 5 million, grew even faster — increasing by 15 percent. Phoenix-Mesa, Arizona, led others in this category with a 35 percent population gain.

Within metropolitan areas, central cities grew slowly — increasing only 4 percent between 1990 and 1999. While 14 percent of the metropolitan areas experienced population decline during this period, 39 percent of central cities did. However, growth was rapid (14 percent) in the suburban areas outside central cities. In 1999, 62 percent of the people who lived in metropolitan areas lived outside central cities.

The Census Bureau Can Tell You More

- Look for detailed tables on the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site (www.census.gov). Select "Estimates."
- Contact the Statistical Information Staff of the U.S. Census Bureau at 301-457-2422 or e-mail pop@census.gov.